

## Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 SSC-01 IO-10

AGR-10 CU-04 PC-05 /130 W

----- 100239

P R 292121Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9909

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBJHSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1736

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: CONTINUING REACTION TO GOH CHANGES

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1714

1. ON APRIL 29 EL CRONISTA PUBLISHED ON INTERVIEW OF GUATEMALAN REPORTERS WITH LT. COLONEL RIGOBERTO REGALADO LARA, CHIEF OF CIVIL AFFAIRS OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES. THE INTERVIEW APPEARED IN THE APRIL 28 EDITION OF LA NACION IN GUATEMALA. THE MAIN POINTS

FOLLOW:

A. THE MILITARY WILL NOT GIVE UP POWER UNTIL THEY HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR DEVELOPMENT GOALS;

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B. THE MILITARY DO NOT WANT A FAKE DEMOCRACY WHERE THE CAMPESINOS VOTE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT THEY ARE VOTING FOR;

C. GENERAL LOPEZ WILL BE PUNISHED ACCORDING TO THE LAW IF HE IS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE UB BRIBE;

D. THE MILITARY WANTS TO BE "A TRUE INTERPRETER" OF THE PEOPLE, AND, AS SUCH, WILL SEEK TO REDUCE ILLITERACY AND FURTHER AGRARIAN REFORM;

E. THE NEW GOVERNMENT WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND IS IN FAVOR OF A COMMON MARKET THAT BENEFITS ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES;

F. THERE HAVE BEEN MEETINGS ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN THE SALVADORAN AND HONDURAN MILITARY TO RESOLVE FRONTIER DIFFICULTIES;

G. THERE IS A GENERAL DESIRE TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE;

H. THE REGIME IS NEITHER RIGHTIST OR LEFTIST, IT IS "HONDURAN"; AND

I. THE POLITICIANS ARE NOT AT PRESENT CONTRIBUTING TO DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY.

2. THE TRADITIONAL MEETING AND MARCHES HAVE BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE UB BRIBERY, THE USG AND THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES WILL ALL BE THE TARGET FOR AN AVALANCHE OF VERBAL ATTACKS.

3. EL DIA OF APRIL 28 REPORTED THAT MOST VICE MINISTERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD BE CONFIRMED IN THEIR POSITIONS IN ORDER TO GIVE CONTINUITY TO THE GOVERNMENT. IT HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER THAT MELGAR WAS GIVING AUTHORITY TO THE NEW MINISTERS TO NAME THEIR DEPUTIES. IT IS APPARENT FROM THE EL DIA STORY THAT THE MINISTERS, UNDERSTANDING THE VIRTUES OF CONTINUITY, ARE CONFIRMING UNCLASSIFIED

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THE INCUMBENT DEPUTIES, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. RADIO REPORTS INDICATE THAT ALL VICE MINISTERS EXCEPT RAFAEL CALLEJAS (NATURAL RESOURCES) AND RAUL CARDONA (COMMUNICATIONS) HAVE BEEN RATIFIED IN THEIR POSTS. CALLEJAS AND CARDONA HAVE REPORTEDLY RESIGNED.

4. CONSERVATIVE AND SENSATIONALIST LA NOTICIA OF APRIL 28 PUBLISHED COLORED BANNER HEADLINES SAYING "LOPEZ ARELLANO - HAS HE LEFT THE COUNTRY?" LA NOTICIA REPORTS THE FREQUENTLY HEARD RUMORS THAT LOPEZ FLEW TO NICARAGUA IN A PRIVATE PLANE SEVERAL DAYS AGO. IN ITS EDITORIAL COMMENT LA NOTICIA CONTINUES ITS PUSH FOR A RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.

5. IN DECREE NO.219, DATED APRIL 28, CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR MADE THE FOLLOWING OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THE SUPREME COURT: PRESIDENT - ALBERTO GALEANO MADRID; MEMBERS - ARMANDO AGUILUZ VALLE, ALEJANDRO LBGEZ CANTARERO, FRANCISCO LOZANO ESPANA, JAIME PINEDA RODRIGUEZ, JOSE ANTONIO FERNANDEZ GUZMAN, JUSTINIANO VASQUEZ RODRIGUEZ; ALTERNATES - HECTOR CHAVARRIA VARELA, VICENTE GARCIA RIVERA, GUILLERMO LOPEZ RODEZNO AND JOSE MARIA PALACIOS MEJIA. ACCORDING TO TIEMPO OF APRIL 29, ANTONIO GUZMAN REFUSED BECAUSE OF PRIVATE COMMITMENTS.

6. TIEMPO OF APRIL 29 PUBLISHED A REPORT DATALINED SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, QUOTING PRESIDENT ODUBER AS ACCUSING THE BANANA COMPANIES OF MAINTAINING AN OFFENSIVE TO WEAKEN THE UPEB COUNTRIES. THE STORY ALSO REPORTED THAT ODUBER STRONGLY DEFENDED COSTA RICAN VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO WHO HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN A STORY IN EL DIA OF APRIL 28 AS BEING INVOLVED IN THE UB BRIBERY EPISODE.

7. ON ITS EDITORIAL PAGE CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA OF APRIL 29, REPORTED THAT NATIONAL AGRARIAN INSTITUTE (INA) DIRECTOR MARIO MALDONADO HAS DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE REPORT THAT OUTGOING LABMIN GAUTAMA FONSECA WILL BE NAMED AS AN ADVISOR TO INA. FONSECA HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY ATTACKED IN LA PRENSA AS A "POPULIST".

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8. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION WILL FLY TO SWITZERLAND TO COLLECT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE UB BRIBE.  
SANCHEZ

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MANAGUA  
AMEMBJSY SAN JOSE  
SAN SALVADOR  
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